

all for these glorifications, but when one is undergoing military service it is perhaps on the whole preferable to belong to a distinguished corps!

Chaffin's Bluff, which is obliquely across the James from "Drewry's Bluff," takes its name from Mr. Chaffin, the owner of the farm. It is about nine miles from Richmond by the river, but somewhat less by the direct road.

The bluff proper begins a mile or so from the river, to which it is at right angles and juts out boldly into the water, forming a precipitate cliff, some 200 feet in height and affording an excellent site for river batteries, similar to those, which in the spring of 1862, from Drewry's Bluff on the opposite shore scattered and drove off the Federal ironclad fleet.

The altitude of the forts directly above the channel, prevents the use of the guns of a gunboat for their reduction, while the plunging fire of the heavy guns in the fort would instantly sink the stoutest vessel ever built if she should attempt to run past them.

"Running Past," moreover, is rendered an impossibility by a labyrinthine net-work of stakes or piles driven entirely across the river (except a narrow, secret channel directly under the forts) which effectually blockades it.

Indeed I am satisfied from a personal inspection that no Federal vessel will ever pass these obstructionary defenses until our land fortifications shall be carried by the enemy; and that does not seem within the range of probability so long as there are men enough to occupy them. For to my unskilled eyes, it appears that ten thousand men within these fortifications ought to feel secure against 200,000.

Richmond is defended by a triple line of fortifications consisting of redoubts for heavy guns, connected by zig-zag lines of entrenchments for infantry. Besides these, there are thirty (or more) formidable forts with magazines, traverses, casemates, trenches, and all the appliances of regular forts. Each fort occupies a prominent point with special reference to co-operating with its neighbors, and covering every foot of the country in front, for at least three miles.